

Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program (SHOCAP)

What is SHOCAP?

The SHOCAP acronym stands for Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program. SHOCAP is a cooperative effort to share information and resources between agencies working with serious habitual juvenile offenders. SHOCAP enables these agencies to give additional focused attention to juveniles who repeatedly commit serious crimes by holding them immediately accountable for their actions and by helping them access the services they need to correct their behavior.

Why SHOCAP?

Scarce resources are often wasted on non-career juvenile delinquents who are unlikely to commit further offenses. A small percentage of youth are responsible for the majority of serious juvenile crime. In Utah, 7% of juvenile offenders commit 67% of all juvenile felonies.

SHOCAP attempts to identify those youth who continually drain the resources of the juvenile justice system. These young criminals cycle in and out of various system agencies without any collective awareness of their repeated and increasingly serious behavior.

SHOCAP is an information and case management program on the part of all agencies within the juvenile justice system. These partner agencies have agreed to share information and target their resources towards chronically offending youth. State and Federal law allows information developed from partnership agencies to be used in providing relevant case history for more informed decisions about youth who are habitual offenders.

Participating Agencies

- Child and Family Services
- Community-Based Agencies
- Local Law Enforcement
- Juvenile Court Probation
- Mental Health Agencies
- Prosecutors
- Schools
- Youth Corrections



Who is a SHO?

A SHO (serious habitual offender) is any offender who, based on adjudication, has a history of committing serious or frequent criminal acts and who, based on their criminal history, will likely continue to commit criminal acts without further intervention. A pre-established criteria with background information is used to identify potential SHOCAP offenders. A committee consisting of all partner agencies designates those juveniles who are most likely to benefit from increased monitoring.

Removal

One objective of SHOCAP is to deter juveniles from re-offending. Juveniles who are placed in SHOCAP can be removed from SHOCAP one of four different ways.

1. He/she turns 18 and is not under the jurisdiction of juvenile court or youth corrections custody, or
2. Remains crime free for one year after the date of their last adjudication, or
3. Is certified into the adult system, or
4. Moves from a SHOCAP participant county.

Expectations

When a juvenile offender is designated as “Active” in SHOCAP a multi-disciplinary corrective action plan is devised. The corrective action plan has three goals.

1. Accountability

SHO youth are required to meet their court-ordered financial obligations for fines and restitution.

2. Competency Development

The plan identifies specific life skills that SHO youth need to be successful in dealing with life and its challenges.

3. Community Protection

SHO youth are subjected to increased monitoring and more immediate sanctions if they fail to be in compliance with the terms of their supervision or if they violate any laws.

The SHOCAP Act

In 1996 the Utah Legislature enacted the SHOCAP ACT. This legislation details the requirements of SHOCAP.

■Communities must establish an oversight committee comprised of chiefs of police, sheriffs, mayors, county commissioners, city and county attorneys, youth corrections regional directors, juvenile court district directors, school superintendents, and directors of community-based agencies.

■All information on SHO youth can be shared, but confidentiality must be maintained.

■All SHO youth can be fingerprinted and photographed.

■All SHO youth information is stored on the SHOCAP database, part of the state Juvenile Information System, and can be accessed by SHOCAP partners.

Training & Technical Assistance

The Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice oversees implementation of SHOCAP statewide by providing free on-site technical assistance and training to communities. Training provides a more detailed explanation of the SHOCAP goals and philosophy, how to access the SHOCAP database, a needs assessment, and development of an interagency agreement.

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SHOCAP Goals

**Identify the serious
habitual offenders in the community.**

**Coordinate interagency
resources to meet the
variety of needs of these juveniles.**

Reduce juvenile recidivism.

Increase public safety.